

of large pits, six or seven feet deep, in the natural clay below the burnt clay layer of one of the mounds. These pits had long clay tubes, or flues, extending from them, and there is some evidence that these pits were used as places of cremation, but this must be determined by further and careful study. A number of photographs were exhibited, illustrating the structure of the mounds and the objects found in them.

*Note on Manayunkia speciosa.*—Mr. EDW. POTTS reported having found specimens of *Manayunkia speciosa* Leidy, amongst material collected in the Schuylkill River, above Fairmount dam; thus determining what had previously admitted of a shade of doubt, the strictly fresh-water habitat of this species. In continuation he narrated some points within his own observation, supplementary to Dr. Leidy's description.

The branchial organs (tentacles) appeared to him to be grouped upon two processes on each of the lateral lophophores, eight each in the upper or more dorsal groups, and six or possibly more in each of the others. Beside these, there is a single pair placed centrally upon the dorsal portion of the head, and a similar pair opposite, which do not seem to be connected with either of these groups. The whole number is therefore 32–36. The alternating contractions and dilatations of the vessels conveying the green blood through the dorsal pair above mentioned are very conspicuous.

While the general appearance of this crown of tentacles, when expanded, is somewhat similar to that of a polyzoan, there is a noticeable difference in the effect produced by the motion of their cilia. In the latter a powerful *incurrent* bears food particles, etc., towards the mouth as a vortex; in the former case, while the motion draws these particles from without or behind the circle towards the tentacles, the moment they pass between them they are influenced by an *excurrent* bearing them forcibly away.

This outflowing current is further shown by the fact that excrementitious matters are drawn rapidly forward through the tube, and ejected at its anterior extremity.

As food, therefore, cannot be sucked into the mouth of the worm, we find that it is carried in. Acceptable particles which touch the tentacles are grasped by the cilia, and rapidly passed down amongst them in near contact with the tentacle into grooves at the base of the above-mentioned processes, and thence into the digestive tract.

Beside the specimens above mentioned from the Schuylkill River, Mr. Potts has had recently under observation a considerable number, say fifteen or twenty, from the pond near Absecon. One of these, to which most of his time had been devoted, had been kept for many days isolated in a microscopic stage tank. While in this situation it, for some reason, left its old tube and formed another, giving him the opportunity to observe the

character of the latter, and the method of its construction. In its earliest stages it is a transparent, smooth, and homogeneous slime-like excretion, within which the worm may be very clearly seen, as it works its way forward or drags itself backward by means of its podal hooks and spines. Later on, the anterior extremity thickens and becomes more and more opaque, and, as Dr. Leidy has observed, "feebly annulated," presumably from the adherence of effete particles, and their compression by the repeated withdrawal of the ciliated tentacles into the mouth of the tube. This method of prolongation must continue during the residence of the worm, and in consequence, if supported, it may sometimes reach a length which is several times that of its inhabitant.

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JANUARY 29.

The President, Dr. LEIDY, in the chair.

Thirty-three persons present.

*Fossil Bones from Louisiana.*—Prof. LEIDY directed attention to a collection of fossil bones, which have been submitted to his examination by the Smithsonian Institution. They were obtained by Mr. William Crooks, at the mine of the American Salt Company, near New Iberia, La. They chiefly consist of remains of *Mastodon americanus*, of *Equus major*, of *Equus*, not distinguishable from those of the domestic horse, and of *Mylodon harlani*. Of *Mastodon* the collection contained well preserved molar teeth, and characteristic fragments of bones. Of the *Equus major*, there are vertebræ, fragments of long bones, and a number of teeth. The molars are characterized by their comparatively large size and complexity of arrangement in the enamel folding, especially of the upper molars. Of *Mylodon* there are several molar teeth, vertebræ and other bones, mostly fragments. Among the bones are two mature and well-preserved tibiæ, the best specimens yet discovered of the species. They are identical in form and size with those of *M. robustus*; indicating *M. harlani* to have been a species of the same size as the former. The extreme length of the tibia internally is nine inches; breadth across the head, seven inches; across the distal extremity, five and one-half inches. Further collections were anticipated from the same locality.

*Foraminifera in the Drift of Minnesota.*—Prof. LEIDY stated that he had recently received for examination, from Mr. B. W. Thomas, of Chicago, several glass slips with mounted specimens of sand. These were obtained by washing clay from the boulder drift of Meeker Co., Minnesota. In the specimens, Prof. Leidy